United Nations A/C.6/55/L.21

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
13 November 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Sixth Committee
Agenda item 159
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-second session

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fifty-second session

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.6/55/L.6

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. By operative paragraphs 12 and 13 of draft resolution A/C.6/55/L.6, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide that the next session of the Commission will be held in the United Nations Office at Geneva from 23 April to 1 June and from 12 July to 10 August 2001.

(b) Reiterate the request contained in paragraph 11 of its resolution 54/111 of 9 December 1999, and emphasize the need to implement cost-saving measures, such as those described in paragraph 639 of the report of the Commission on the work of its fifty-first session.[1]

B. Background

2. A provision had been made in section 8, Legal affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 for the convening of two 12-week sessions at Geneva, one session in 2000 and one in 2001.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 10* and corrigenda (A/54/10 and Corr.1 and 2).

00-74412 (E) 131100

3. It is recalled that in the programme budget implications statement (A/C.6/54/L.21) submitted to the Sixth Committee in 1999, at the time of its adoption of draft resolution A/C.6/54/L.7/Rev.1, it was pointed out that a split session would result in additional costs for travel of the Chairman and members of the Commission, as well as for the travel for members of the Secretariat. The General Assembly, in its resolution 54/250 of 23 December 1999 approving the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, authorized an additional amount of $105,200 for the holding of a split session in 2000.

C. Relationship of the proposed requests to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 and to the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2000-2001

4. The above-mentioned request of the Assembly relates to activities in subprogramme 3, Progressive development and codification of international law, of programme 4, Legal affairs, and to programme 27, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 and to section 8, Legal affairs, and section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. No modifications to those programmes would be necessary as a result of the activities requested in the draft resolution.

D. Additional requirements for the biennium 2000-2001

5. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.6/55/L.6, the Commission will hold a 12-week split session at Geneva from 23 April to 1 June and from 12 July to 10 August 2001. The holding of a split session would result in additional costs for travel of the Chairman and members of the Commission ($99,000) and travel for members of the Secretariat ($14,000).

E. Potential for absorption

6. Substantive servicing of two 12-week sessions, including one split session in 2000 of the International Law Commission, has been included in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. There is no provision, however, for the additional requirements related to the convening of another split session in 2001.

7. With regard to conference-servicing requirements, the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 includes provision not only for meetings already in the calendar of conferences but also for meetings to be added at a subsequent stage by decision of the General Assembly, provided that the number and distribution of meetings is consistent with the pattern in previous years. On this basis, it is anticipated that no additional resources would be required for the provision of conference services for the Commission.

8. The session held in 2000 resulted in savings due to the facts that: two members residing in Geneva did not incur any travel or daily subsistence allowance costs (DSA); the rate of DSA applicable was lower than budgeted; and attendance was less than projected. Given that the overall savings achieved in 2000 would fully

offset the additional costs for travel of members and of the Secretariat attending a split session in 2001, there would be no additional requirements arising as a result of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.6/55/L.6.

F. Summary

9. **Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.6/55/L.6, no additional resources would be required under section 8, Legal affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.**